(b) the likely total investment in these 28 AEZs is estimated to be Rs. 780.86 crores.

(c) the investments envisaged from various sectors in these 28 AEZs are approximately as follows:

Central Government and Central agencies	Rs. 261.54 crores
State Government and State agencies	Rs. 75. 12 crores
Private sector	Rs. 444.21 crores

(d) and (e) As per the proposals received from State Governments for setting up these 28 AEZs, the projected cumulative exports in next five years are around Rs. 4032 crores. The activities under these AEZs are at different stages. While in some AEZs, enhanced exports are envisaged in the next five years, in some exports have already started or are expected to commence by the end of this financial year.

Import of food products

629. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed import of food products;

(b) whether Government have fixed GM certification norms for import of food products; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Import restrictions are being removed since the early 1990's as part of economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our International obligations. At present, all the items on which import restrictions were maintained on account of balance of payment reasons are freely importable.

As per existing Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989 notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Rule 11 provides that food stuffs, ingredients in food stuffs and additives including processing aids containing or consisting of genetically

engineered organisms or cells, shall not be produced, sold, imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC). The GEAC has not fixed GM certification norms for import of food products.

Auction of tobacco

630. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister had urged him for immediate market intervention by the Tobacco Board to lift the tobacco from the auction platforms;

(b) if so, whether he has pointed out that even though the auction platforms were opened on January 24, 2002, so far not even 40 per cent of stocks were lifted;

(c) whether he had given any assurance in this regard; and

(d) if so, what steps were taken by Government on the proposals made by Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d)Yes, Sir. A proposal in this regard was considered. However, on overall consideration, it was felt that market intervention by the Tobacco Board was not warranted at that stage. As on date, around 108 million kilograms of a total estimated crop of around 115 million milograms have already been auctioned.

Protection to domestic tea companies

†631. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed hundred per cent foreign investment in tea plantations; if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.